

REMARKS


Applicants respectfully request examination of the present application as amended herein. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application, an amended sheet of claims having been filed in the PCT application, a copy of the amended sheet in English and German accompanies this filing of the national phase application. Upon entry of the above preliminary amendment, claims 1-10 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 have been amended. New claim 10 has been added.

A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached hereto in Appendix A. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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## Appendix A

1. (amended) A polyether alcohol [which can be] prepared by ring-opening polymerization of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule onto H-functional initiator substances, wherein ethylene oxide or a mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has an ethylene oxide content of at least 98% by weight, based on the mixture, is added, in each case in an amount of not more than 40% by weight, based on the weight of the polyether alcohol, onto the initiator substance and subsequently at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule or a mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has a maximum ethylene oxide content of 20% by weight, based on the mixture, is added on, and at least one multimetal cyanide compound is used as a catalyst.

2. (amended) A polyether alcohol as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alkylene oxides having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule are propylene oxide, butylene oxide, isobutylene oxide or any mixtures of at least two of the alkylene oxides [mentioned are used as alkylene oxides having at least three carbon atoms in the molecule].

8. (amended) A [process for preparing] polyether alcohol[s] as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one basic compound is used as catalyst for the addition of the ethylene oxide or of the mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule, where the mixture has an ethylene oxide content of at least 98% by weight, based on the mixture, onto the initiator substance and at least one multimetal cyanide compound is used as catalyst for adding on the alkylene oxide or oxides having at least 3 carbon atoms in the molecule or the mixture of ethylene oxide and at least one alkylene oxide having at least 3 carbon atoms in

the molecule, where the mixture has a maximum ethylene oxide content of 20% by weight, based on the mixture, and at least one basic compound is used as catalyst for adding on the ethylene oxide at the end of the chain.

9. (amended) A polyurethane [which can be] produced by reacting polyisocyanates with compounds having at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups, wherein a polyether alcohol as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 is used as compound having at least two hydrogen atoms which are reactive toward isocyanate groups.